



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
Form NIFA 2009-0001
OMB Control No. 0524-0046
Expiration Date: 11/30/2016

Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be submitted under the authority of the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

This form must be used for Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations to the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP), Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each shortage situation. See the State Animal Health Official (SAHO) section of the VMLRP web site (www.nifa.usda.gov/vmlrp) for the number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Contiguous counties, Sussex and Warren, in NW New Jersey
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area; must be a logistically feasible veterinary practice service area)

Approximate Center of Shortage Area (or Location of Position if Type III): Town of Newton, New Jersey 07860, north of Interstate Route 80
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Overall Priority of Shortage: ☐ Moderate Priority ☐ High Priority ☒ Critical Priority

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty (Choose only one Type)

☐ **Type I Shortage: Private Practice**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 80 percent time or 32 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

☒ **Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area**
Food Animal Medicine (awardee obligation: at least 30 percent time or 12 hr/week)

Must cover (check at least one)

- ☒ Beef Cattle
☒ Dairy Cattle
☒ Swine
☒ Poultry
☒ Small Ruminant
☐ Other: _____

May cover

- ☐ Beef Cattle
☐ Dairy Cattle
☐ Swine
☐ Poultry
☐ Small Ruminant
☒ Other: Ostriches

☐ **Type III Shortage: Public Practice** (awardee obligation: at least 49 percent time or 19.6 hr/week)
Employer: _____ Position Title: _____
Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas:

- ☐ Food Safety
☐ Public Health
☐ Epidemiology
☐ Other: _____

Please describe the **importance and objectives** of a veterinarian filling this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

There is a critical lack of food animal veterinarians in the above described area, due to retirements and/or deaths and non-replacement of veterinarians that have historically served food animal clients. It is also difficult to attract new veterinarians into the area to take up the growing responsibilities, due to veterinary school debt. This designated area is very actively involved in Farmland Preservation, and the increasing acres of preserved farmland, NJ Farmland Assessment rules, together with the increasing desire for many small-acreage homesteads to raise their own food animals – especially ethnic groups - makes this area rich in small “hobby farms” filled with food animals. We have identified officially 216 poultry farms, with 146,211 backyard birds; one egg-laying facility of 1 million birds; 242 cattle farms with 13,189 head; 47 small swine farms with 847 head; 28 small ruminant farms with 725 head; and 3 livestock slaughter facilities in this area.* We suspect that there are far more backyard hobby farms with many more food animals that have not been officially accounted for, that could be found by and serviced by an ambulatory veterinarian eager to work here.

Please describe the **activities** of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

We have identified a practice in this area where a veterinarian meeting the VMLRP requirements could be placed and easily practice food animal medicine no less than 30% of the time, and in fact, could increase the food animal practice clientele by finding the many small backyard hobby farms with food animals via an Ambulatory practice. There is a dire need for such a veterinarian, as state regulatory veterinarians are finding that many food animal clients are self-diagnosing and medicating their animals with inappropriate therapeutics, thus potentially causing animal harm and compromising food safety. The VMLRP veterinarian would be invaluable by providing a wide variety of routine food animal veterinary services, diagnostics, procedures, surgeries, client education on food safety, appropriate antibiotic use, and better husbandry management, services required for interstate movement of livestock, Accredited veterinary tests and certificates, consultation on health care programs and nutrition, disease surveillance for federal and state disease programs, and foreign animal disease reporting. This veterinarian could also be involved in New Jersey’s veterinary emergency response program and disease control and eradication programs. By protecting food animal health, the VMLRP veterinarian would also be protecting human health.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

The veterinary practice in this area has spent much effort doing its own recruitment through ads in veterinary journals, primarily. Retaining a food animal veterinarian has been difficult because several veterinarians have actually left and gone on to federal or state regulatory practice. The NJ Department of Agriculture has reached out to Rutgers University requesting Animal Science professors who know of graduates that were accepted into Veterinary Schools and recently graduated to consider food animal practice in this underserved rural area, but to date, there has been no response. The NJVMA was also contacted, but again, there was no response.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Because this designated underserved rural area has a human population that is increasingly getting interested in farming and in raising their own animals (often with intentions of raising “organically raised” poultry and meat animals), and because many of the human population there have recently moved from urban areas, they have no knowledge on proper care of these animals; thus, the potential for animal disease outbreaks, poor husbandry and animal welfare, self-medicating animals improperly with illegal therapeutics or species-improper therapeutics, and the lack of a food animal veterinarian to be called upon during times of both medical emergencies and preventive medicine visits and education/vaccination programs, would lead to the enormous potential for the human food supply safety to deteriorate, as well as animal health and welfare. Disease outbreaks could occur, and owners could simply bury their dead animals, never knowing who to call for help. Serious disease outbreaks could expand, and foreign animal diseases could never be reported, simply because the community had no food animal veterinarian to reach out to first for help. This has critical negative implications on a wholesome food supply, and animal, human, and environmental health, not only to the immediate community but to the state, region, and nation - with tremendous negative international implications when outbreaks of reportable disease occur and international embargoes of food animals and their products are implemented. The negative trade implications would further harm the national economy as well.

(Optional) If the nominator wishes to specify a service time for this shortage situation that is higher than the minimum required for the shortage type checked on Page 1, please specify the percent time in the box below (based on a 40-hour work week). Leave the box blank if the service time for this shortage situation is for the minimum percent time of the shortage type indicated.

%

Minimum Service time required for each shortage type

Type I: 80 percent time or 32 hours/week

Type II: 30 percent time or 12 hours/week

Type III: 49 percent time or 19.6 hours/week

SAHO nominator must check both boxes below in order for NIFA to consider this nomination for official designation

X By checking this box, I affirm that this form represents a nomination and is subject to NIFA review and approval.

X By checking this box, I affirm that it is my professional opinion that this is a bona fide food supply or public health-related veterinary shortage situation. I affirm due diligence has been invested to identify this area as a shortage situation of at least moderate priority (severity).

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

Name: Dr. Manoel Tamassia

Title: Director, State Veterinarian

Organization: New Jersey Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Health

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Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OGFM, 800 9th St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.

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